

09/529991

416 Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 APR 2000

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
REQUEST FOR FILING NATIONAL PHASE OF
PCT APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 AND 37 CFR 1.494 OR 1.495**

To: Asst. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

(Our Deposit Account No. 03-3975)

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES

Atty Dkt: PM 268081
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DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

M# /Client Ref.

From: Pillsbury Madison & Sutro LLP, IP Group:

Date: April 24, 2000

This is a **REQUEST** for **FILING** a PCT/USA National Phase Application based on:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. International Application | 2. International Filing Date | 3. Earliest Priority Date Claimed |
| PCT/FI99/00707 | 31 August 1999 | 1 September 1998 |
| ↑ country code | Day MONTH Year | Day MONTH Year |
| | | (use item 2 if no earlier priority) |

4. Measured from the earliest priority date in item 3, this PCT/USA National Phase Application Request is being filed within:

(a) ☒ 20 months from above item 3 date (b) ☐ 30 months from above item 3 date,

(c) Therefore, the due date (unextendable) is May 1, 2000

5. Title of Invention METHOD FOR CONTROLLING LOAD IN A TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

6. Inventor(s) HUTTUNEN

Applicant herewith submits the following under 35 U.S.C. 371 to effect filing:

7. ☒ Please immediately start national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371 (f)).
8. ☐ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) is transmitted herewith (file if in English but, if in foreign language, file only if not transmitted to PTO by the International Bureau) including:
- a. ☐ Request;
- b. ☐ Abstract;
- c. _____ pgs. Spec. and Claims;
- d. _____ sheet(s) Drawing which are ☐ informal ☐ formal of size ☐ A4 ☐ 11"
9. ☒ A copy of the International Application has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
10. A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
- a. ☒ is transmitted herewith including: (1) ☐ Request; (2) ☐ Abstract;
- (3) 14 pgs. Spec. and Claims;
- (4) 3 sheet(s) Drawing which are:
- ☐ informal ☒ formal of size ☒ A4 ☐ 11"
- b. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in English.
- c. ☐ is not herewith, but will be filed when required by the forthcoming PTO Missing Requirements Notice per Rule 494(c) if box 4(a) is X'd or Rule 495(c) if box 4(b) is X'd.
- d. ☐ Translation verification attached (not required now).

11. ☒ **PLEASE AMEND** the specification before its first line by inserting as a separate paragraph:
 a. ☒ --This application is the national phase of international application PCT/FI99/00707 filed August 31, 1999 which designated the U.S.--
 b. ☐ --This application also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/____, filed ____.--
12. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)), i.e., **before 18th month** from first priority date above in item 3, are transmitted herewith (file only if in English) including:
13. ☒ PCT Article 19 claim amendments (if any) have been transmitted by the International Bureau
14. ☐ Translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)), i.e., of **claim amendments** made before 18th month, is attached (required by 20th month from the date in item 3 if box 4(a) above is X'd, or 30th month if box 4(b) is X'd, or else amendments will be considered canceled).
15. **A declaration of the inventor** (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4))
 a. ☒ is submitted herewith ☒ Original ☐ Facsimile/Copy
 b. ☐ is not herewith, but will be filed when required by the forthcoming PTO Missing Requirements Notice per Rule 494(c) if box 4(a) is X'd or Rule 495(c) if box 4(b) is X'd.
16. **An International Search Report (ISR):**
 a. Was prepared by ☒ European Patent Office ☐ Japanese Patent Office ☐ Other
 b. ☒ has been transmitted by the international Bureau to PTO.
 c. ☒ copy herewith (1 pg(s).) ☒ plus Annex of family members (1 pg(s).).
17. **International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER):**
 a. ☒ has been transmitted (if this letter is filed after 28 months from date in item 3) in English by the International Bureau with Annexes (if any) in original language.
 b. ☐ copy herewith in English.
 c.1 ☐ IPER Annex(es) in original language ("Annexes" are amendments made to claims/spec/drawings during Examination) including attached amended:
 c.2 ☐ Specification/claim pages #____ claims #____
 Dwg Sheets #____
 d. ☐ Translation of Annex(es) to IPER (required by 30th month due date, or else annexed amendments will be considered canceled).
18. **Information Disclosure Statement** including:
 a. ☒ Attached Form PTO-1449 listing documents
 b. ☒ Attached copies of documents listed on Form PTO-1449
 c. ☒ A concise explanation of relevance of ISR references is given in the ISR.
19. ☒ **Assignment** document and Cover Sheet for recording are attached. Please mail the recorded assignment document back to the person whose signature, name and address appear at the end of this letter.
20. ☐ Copy of Power to IA agent.
21. ☐ **Drawings** (complete only if 8d or 10a(4) not completed): ____ sheet(s) per set: ☐ 1 set informal;
☐ Formal of size ☐ A4 ☐ 11"
22. ☐ ____ (No.) **Verified Statement(s)** establishing "small entity" status under Rules 9 & 27
23. **Priority** is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119/365 based on the priority claim and the certified copy, both filed in the International Application during the international stage based on the filing in (country) FINLAND of:
- | Application No. | Filing Date | Application No. | Filing Date |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| (1) 98 1866 | September 1, 1998 | (2) _____ | _____ |
| (3) _____ | _____ | (4) _____ | _____ |
| (5) _____ | _____ | (6) _____ | _____ |
- a. ☒ See Form PCT/IB/304 sent to US/DO with copy of priority documents. If copy has not been received, please proceed promptly to obtain same from the IB.
 b. ☐ Copy of Form PCT/IB/304 attached.

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24. Attached:

25. Preliminary Amendment:

25.5 Per Item 17.c2, **cancel original** pages #____, claims #____, Drawing Sheets #26. **Calculation of the U.S. National Fee (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(1)) and other fees is as follows:**Based on amended claim(s) per above item(s) ☐ 12, ☐ 14, ☐ 17, ☐ 25, ☐ 25.5 (hilitte)

Total Effective Claims	16	minus 20 =	0	x \$18/\$9	=	\$0	966/967
Independent Claims	2	minus 3 =	0	x \$78/\$39	=	\$0	964/965
If any proper (ignore improper) Multiple Dependent claim is present,				add \$260/\$130	+	0	968/969

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(4)): →→ **BASIC FEE REQUIRED, NOW** →→→→A. If country code letters in item 1 are not "US", "BR", "BB", "TT", "MX", "IL", "NZ", "IN" or "ZA"

See item 16 re:

1. Search Report was <u>not</u> prepared by EPO or JPO -----	add \$970/\$485		960/961
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→ <input type="checkbox"/> B. If <u>USPTO</u> did not issue <u>both</u> International Search Report (ISR) <u>and</u> (if box 4(b) above is X'd) the International Examination Report (IPER), -----	add \$970/\$485	+0	960/961
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(of) (these) <input type="checkbox"/> E. If international preliminary examination fee was paid to <u>USPTO</u> <u>and</u> Rules 492(a)(4) and 496(b) <u>satisfied</u> (IPER Sec. V <u>all</u> 3 boxes YES for <u>all</u> claims), -----	add \$96/\$48	+0	962/963
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SUBTOTAL = \$840

27.

28. If Assignment box 19 above is X'd, add Assignment Recording fee of ----\$40 +40 (581)

29. Attached is a check to cover the ----- **TOTAL FEES** \$880

Our Deposit Account No. 03-3975

Our Order No. 60256

C#

268081

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CHARGE STATEMENT: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any missing or insufficient fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under Rules 16-18 and 492 (missing or insufficient fee only) now or hereafter relative to this application and the resulting Official document under Rule 20, or credit any overpayment, to our Account/Order Nos. shown above for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

This CHARGE STATEMENT does not authorize charge of the issue fee until/unless an issue fee transmittal form is filed

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APPLICATION UNDER UNITED STATES PATENT LAWS

Atty. Dkt. No. PM 268081
(M#)

Invention: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING LOAD IN A TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

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This is a:

- ☐ Provisional Application
- ☐ Regular Utility Application
- ☐ Continuing Application
- ☒ PCT National Phase Application
- ☐ Design Application
- ☐ Reissue Application
- ☐ Plant Application
- ☐ Substitute Specification
Sub. Spec Filed _____
in App. No. _____ / _____
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SPECIFICATION

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METHOD FOR CONTROLLING LOAD IN A TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The invention relates to a method for controlling load in a telecommunication system comprising a network part, at least one subscriber terminal and a telecommunication connection between the network part and the subscriber terminal, in which method the telecommunication connection is used for connection setup and data transfer, the telecommunication connection comprises a channel for relaying channel allocation requests transmitted by the subscriber terminal to the network part.

10 The invention further relates to a telecommunication system comprising a network part, at least one subscriber terminal and a telecommunication connection between the network part and the subscriber terminal, in which method the telecommunication connection is used for connection setup and data transfer, the telecommunication connection comprises a channel for relaying channel allocation requests transmitted by the subscriber terminal to the network part.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 A packet radio system refers to a radio system employing packet switched technique known from the fixed networks. Packet switching is a method wherein a connection is set up between the users by transmitting data in packets that comprise address and control information. A plurality of connections can simultaneously use the same transmission link. Research has been carried out particularly on the use of the packet switched radio systems since the packet switching method is well suited for data transmission wherein data to be transmitted is generated in bursts. Consequently, the data transmission link does not have to be continually allocated, only for transmitting the packets. Cost and capacity can thus be considerably saved both when the network is being built and used. The present packet radio networks are particularly attractive to the further development of the global system for mobile communication GSM, known as a general packet radio service GPRS.

30 The present invention relates to a method and a telecommunication system by means of which a base station system in accordance with the GPRS system can control its load level in a controlled way such that the telecommunication system is not subjected to overload. In the GPRS system, load in the base station system of the telecommunication system is mainly directly

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or indirectly caused by channel allocation requests transmitted by the subscriber terminals to the mobile telephone network. It is previously known to prevent overload by a flow control procedure, for example, by means of which the other party can be restrained from transmitting more data than the system can receive and process. An example of how to restrict the subscriber terminal's capability to make channel allocation requests in this way is to clearly prohibit the terminal from trying to reserve radio resources during a given period of time after the subscriber terminal has already transmitted a channel allocation request to the network. If, for example, all channels in a base station are already in use, the base station controller can transmit a "reject" type of message to the subscriber terminal, which has already transmitted a channel allocation request to the network. The "reject" message can, for example, indicate the time after which the subscriber terminal is allowed to retry channel reservation at the earliest.

A second previously known method for controlling load is an experimental study to find out how high channel allocation request load a base station can tolerate. The next step is to provide a filtering algorithm which starts filtering off the channel allocation requests when a given predetermined load limit is exceeded.

A third way to limit the channel allocation requests is to parametrize the base station system in a suitable manner. The base station system can, for example, change its system parameter information over the broadcast control channel BCCH and thus affect the subscriber terminals' capability to make channel allocation requests. "Random access channel RACH control parameter" system parameter information can affect, for example, whether channel allocation requests can be made to a cell at all or whether only channel allocation requests of certain access control classes are allowed. It is also feasible, for example, to prevent emergency calls from being made via a cell, and to affect the repetition frequency at which channel allocation requests are allowed to be made. Furthermore, it is also possible to affect the number of retries allowed in case the subscriber terminal does not receive a response to its channel allocation request from the mobile telephone network at its first attempt.

The systems described above suffer from the following problems. In the first method, the base station system may, in principle, receive simultaneously so many channel allocation requests from the subscriber terminals that

the base station system does not have the time to react sufficiently quickly to the situation, but the system becomes overloaded. The method thus cannot restrict the effort to try channel reservation from subscriber terminals that have not even tried channel reservation.

5 Since the second method requires empirical study into an already operating system, a suitable filtering algorithm cannot be provided in advance. The suitable limit must therefore be found experimentally. The method can only restrict load generated by channel allocation requests, therefore load caused by other functions cannot be taken into account in the filtering algo-
10 rithm. Mere filtering off a channel allocation request also quickly generates new channel allocation requests to the same base station since the subscriber terminal, failing to receive an appropriate response to its first request, will retry channel reservation. This further increases the number of channel allocation requests to be received.

15 Depending on the situation, the third method applies different principles when allocating radio resources to different types of subscribers, rather than trying to prevent the base station system from becoming physically loaded.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 An object of the invention is to provide a method and a system implementing the method so as to enable the above-mentioned problems to be solved. This is achieved by a method described in the introduction, the method being characterized by controlling the telecommunication system load by ad-
25 justing the capacity of the channel used for relaying the channel allocation requests, and by a telecommunication system which is characterized in that the telecommunication system is arranged to control load by adjusting the capacity of the channel used for relaying the channel allocation requests.

The preferred embodiments of the invention are disclosed in the dependent claims.

30 In the GPRS system, base station system load is thus, directly or indirectly, mainly caused by channel allocation requests transmitted by the subscriber terminals to the mobile telephone network. If, in the GPRS system area, more channel allocations take place than the system is capable of processing, the number of new channel allocations can be restricted in the manner
35 according to the invention.

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The GPRS system defines a packet random access channel PRACH for transmitting these channel allocation requests to the network. Adjusting the PRACH channel capacity in accordance with the invention is dynamically carried out in the following manner. When the base station system becomes overloaded, the PRACH channel capacity is decreased. Fewer channel allocation requests can thus be made to the network. Consequently, the load drops to a level tolerated by the network, and no overload occurs. When the load level drops sufficiently low, the PRACH channel capacity can again be increased. According to a preferred embodiment, the processor load of the base station system or the signalling load between the base station and the base station controller, for example, is continually measured.

The method described above can be utilized either in a base station or a base station controller, or both. If the method is utilized in the base station, the method aims to prevent the base station from becoming overloaded. If the method is utilized in the base station controller, the method aims to prevent the base station controller from becoming overloaded. If the method is utilized both in the base station and the base station controller, the method aims to prevent the base station system from becoming overloaded.

The method and system of the invention provide several advantages. By means of the method and the telecommunication system, the GPRS system can control its load level in a controlled manner such that the system does not become overloaded.

A great advantage is speed. With the method of the invention, the base station system can quickly, while operating, block the whole uplink PRACH capacity out from the base station if necessary, in which case the subscriber terminal no longer can transmit further channel allocation requests to the base station. Too high a load level can thus be detected before the base station system becomes overloaded. Hence, each subscriber terminal does not need to be separately forbidden to try entering a cell but the effort itself is blocked or restricted.

The method of the invention may also necessitate empirical study in order to find a suitable adjustment algorithm. It is, however, easier to find the suitable algorithm since a full load level of the signalling link between the processor unit or the base station and the base station controller can be used directly as the source. Consequently, also processing load caused by other functions affects the point of time when the process of decreasing the PRACH

channel capacity is started. Similarly, since decreasing the PRACH channel capacity affects the subscriber terminal's capability of transmitting channel allocation requests, decreasing the PRACH channel capacity does not necessarily increase the number of reallocation requests made to the cell, unlike mere filtering off a channel allocation request does.

Neither does the method of the invention aim to apply different principles to allocating radio resources to different types of subscribers in load situations, but rather to control the loading process and prevent the system from becoming physically overloaded.

The method of the invention is particularly good when employed in a cell to which a high PRACH capacity is configured. Such a configuration is subjected to extremely high performance requirements. Since all different base station system product generations do not necessarily have sufficient physical capacity to control such configurations, a multi-purpose load restricting method is useful over a radio path.

The method of the invention is good because it adopts dynamically to a situation, also taking into account the overall load situation than merely the load caused by channel allocations. Furthermore, the system can be made to rather quickly moderate the number of channel allocation requests received, thus giving the system some time to react even to sudden load peaks subtly and sufficiently quickly.

The system of the invention shares the advantages described above in connection with the method. It is obvious that the preferred embodiments and the detailed embodiments can be combined into different combinations in order to achieve a desired technical capacity.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention is now described in closer detail in connection with the preferred embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 shows a cellular radio network,

Figure 2 shows a radio connection's physical channels and logical channels transferred in the physical channels, and

Figure 3 is a block diagram of the cellular radio network illustrating how a base station and a base station controller are connected to a packet transmission network.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention is suited for use in GSM-based cellular radio networks, such as the basic GSM cellular network and networks further developed therefrom, in GSM1800 and GSM1900 systems, for example, wherein data transfer is carried out using a general packet radio service GPRS. Data transmission is thus performed in a packet form.

Figure 1 shows an example of the structure of a basic cellular radio network. In Figure 1, base stations 100, 102 comprise a hexagonal coverage area, i.e. a cell. The base stations 100, 102 are connected to a base station controller 114 via a connection line 112. The base station controller 114 serves to control the operation of a plurality of the base stations 100, 102. Usually, the base station controller 114 is connected to a mobile services switching centre 116, which is further connected to a fixed telephone network 118. In office systems, the operations of the base station 100, the base station controller 114 and even the mobile services switching centre 116 can be connected to one device, which is then connected to the fixed network 118, to a switching centre of the fixed telephone network 118, for example. Subscriber terminals 104, 106 located in the cell have a radio connection 108, 110 to the base station 100 of the cell. Additionally, the network part, i.e. the fixed part of the cellular radio network, can comprise further base stations, base station controllers, transmission systems and network management systems of different levels. It is obvious to those skilled in the art that the cellular radio network also comprises various other structures that need not be explained here.

The radio connection 108 is implemented using physical channels. In the GSM, a physical channel is one time slot of a 200 kHz wide frequency band, for example. Figure 2 shows necessary channels for the radio connection 108 in a simplified manner. The frequency band of the GSM system is depicted on the vertical axis, the base station 100 is on the left in the figure and the subscriber terminal 104 is situated on the right. A lower frequency band 212 is used on the uplink, i.e. from the subscriber terminal 104 to the base station 100 in the direction of transmission. In the GSM, the lower frequency band 212 comprises the frequency range 890 - 915 MHz. An upper frequency band 210 is used on the downlink, i.e. from the base station 100 to the subscriber terminal 104 in the direction of transmission. Only some part of the frequency bands are allocated to the network operator, a 5 MHz wide frequency band, for example, which is divided into 200 kHz wide carrier waves, each car-

rier wave normally comprising eight time slots. In this presentation, the time slots are called a physical channel. When transferring speech, for example, there are normally two physical channels in use as traffic channels: one downlink channel 202 and one uplink channel 206.

5 The GPRS standard defines the physical structure of a packet data channel PDCH. As shown by Figure 2, a logical packet common control channel PCCCH can be configured for such a PDCH resource both to the uplink and downlink physical traffic channels 202, 206. Such a PDCH resource, which contains the logical PCCCH channel, is divided into an uplink resource and a downlink resource. The uplink resource can be allocated between the
10 PRACH channel, a packet data traffic channel PDTCH and a packet associated control channel PACCH as defined in the standard. A given part of the uplink resource that has not been fixedly allocated to the PRACH channel can be dynamically allocated to the PRACH, PDTCH and PACCH channels. The
15 part assigned to the PRACH channel is then indicated by means of the downlink PCCCH resource. An uplink state flag USF is relayed to the radio path in each downlink radio block of a packet data channel containing a PCCCH channel. If this USF information has a given predetermined idle mode value "FREE" in the downlink radio blocks, it indicates that the next uplink block in
20 turn is allowed to be used as the PRACH channel. Hence, the USF information transmitted to the radio path can thus be used for dynamically controlling which part of the uplink resource is the PRACH channel and which part is the PDTCH and PACCH channel at a given time. The downlink resource, again, can be allocated between a packet paging channel PPCH, a packet access
25 grant channel PAGCH, the PDTCH channel and the PACCH channel as defined in the standard. If the downlink block USF information has another value than a given predetermined idle mode value, the USF information can be used for controlling the uplink packet traffic, i.e. the PDTCH and PACCH channel packet traffic, of the subscriber terminal allocated to the PDCH resource con-
30 cerned.

 In the solution of the invention, the USF information transmitted in the downlink blocks is only provided with a given predetermined idle mode value, not because the next uplink block would be used as the PDTCH or PACCH channel but because the aim is to prevent the subscriber terminals
35 located in the cell's area from being able to use the next uplink block as the PRACH channel. Logically considered, the USF field is thus given another

value than a given predetermined idle mode value, in other words it is given a "NOT FREE" value. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the USF information is used when it obtains another value than a given predetermined idle mode value for the radio interface PRACH flow control, not for controlling the packet connections allocated to it.

Since the PRACH channel capacity can thus be dynamically decreased by controlling the USF, fewer channel allocation requests can be made to the loaded base station system, and, consequently, no overload follows. When the base station system load level drops sufficiently, the PRACH channel capacity can again be increased by means of the USF.

Referring to Figure 3, a typical structure of a cellular radio network of the invention and the connections thereof to a fixed telephone network 118 and a packet transmission network 342 are described. A base station controller 114 is connected to a base station 100. The base station controller 114 is also connected to a mobile services switching centre 116. The mobile services switching centre 116 is responsible for implementing a connection field, controlling connection setup and release, collecting charging information and controlling echo cancellation equipment, for example.

The base station controller 114 monitors and controls a group of base stations 100. Typically, one base station controller 114 is provided per a few dozen or hundred base stations 100. The base station controller 114 comprises a group switch 320 and a control unit 324. The group switch 320 is used for connecting speech and data and for connecting signalling circuits. The control unit 324 carries out call control, mobility management, collecting statistical information and signalling. A transcoder 322 located between the base station controller 114 and the mobile services switching centre 116 converts the different digital speech coding forms used between the public telephone network 118 and the mobile telephone network into mutually compatible forms.

The base station 100 comprises transceivers 314. The base station 100 typically comprises 1 to 16 transceivers 314. One transceiver 314 provides one TDMA frame, in other words typically eight time slots, with radio capacity. The base station 100 also comprises a control unit 318, which controls the operation of the transceiver 314 a multiplexer 316. The multiplexer 316 is used for placing the traffic channels and control channels used by a plurality of the transceivers 314 over one transmission link 112. The structure of the transmission link 112 is clearly defined, and it is called Abis interface.

The transceivers 314 of the base station 100 are connected to an antenna unit 312, by which a radio connection 108 to a subscriber terminal 104 is implemented. The structure of frames transmitted over the radio connection 108 is also clearly defined, and it is called a radio interface.

5 The subscriber terminal 104 can be, for example, a common GSM mobile telephone, and a portable computer 352, for example, which can be used in packet transmission for ordering and processing the packets, can be connected to the subscriber terminal by an extension card.

10 The group switch 320 can be used for establishing connections (depicted by black dots) both to the public switched telephone network PSTN 118 via the mobile services switching centre 116 and to the packet transmission network 342. In the public switched telephone network 118, a typical terminal 336 is a common telephone or an integrated services digital network ISDN telephone.

15 A serving GPRS support node SGSN 340 establishes a connection between the packet transmission network 342 and the group switch 320. The serving GPRS support node 340 serves to transmit packets between the base station system and a gateway GPRS support node GGSN 344, and to keep a record of the subscriber terminal's 104 location in its area.

20 The gateway GPRS support node 344 connects a public packet transmission network 346 and the packet transmission network 342. The gateway GPRS support node 344 hides by packaging the inner structure of the packet transmission network 342 from the public packet transmission network 346, whereby the public packet transmission network 246 regards the
25 packet transmission network 342 as a subnetwork. The public packet transmission network can direct packets to and receive packets from the subscriber terminal 104 located in the packet transmission network.

30 The packet transmission network 342 is typically a private network which employs the Internet protocol and conveys signalling and tunnelled user data. The structure of the network 342 can vary operator-specifically both by its architecture and protocols below the Internet protocol layer.

35 The public packet transmission network 346 can be, for example, the global Internet network. A terminal 348, for example a server computer, connected to the public packet transmission network, is to transfer packets to the subscriber terminal 104.

Although the invention has been described above with reference to the example in accordance with the accompanying drawings, it is obvious that the invention is not restricted thereto but it can be varied in many ways within the scope of the inventive idea disclosed in the attached claims.

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CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling load in a telecommunication system comprising a network part (100, 114, 116, 340), at least one subscriber terminal (104) and a telecommunication connection (108) between the network part (100, 114, 116, 340) and the subscriber terminal (104), in which method
- 5 the telecommunication connection (108) is used for connection setup and data transfer,
- the telecommunication connection (108) comprises a channel for relaying channel allocation requests transmitted by the subscriber terminal to
- 10 the network part (100, 114, 116, 340),
- characterized** by controlling the telecommunication system load by adjusting the capacity of the channel used for relaying the channel allocation requests.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by decreasing channel capacity when a base station system becomes overloaded, and when the load drops to a desired level, increasing the channel capacity.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by configuring a logical packet associated control channel PCCCH for the resource of a packet data channel PDCH comprised by the radio connection (108),
- 20 which PDCH resource comprised by the logical PCCCH channel is divided into uplink resource and downlink resource,
- which uplink resource is divided between the packet random access channel PRACH, a packet data traffic channel PDTCH and a packet associated control channel PACCH, and
- 25 which uplink resource, which is not fixedly configured as the PRACH channel, is dynamically allocated to the PRACH, PDTCH and PACCH channels.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3, **characterized** by indicating a resource part to be allocated to the PRACH channel by means of the downlink resources of the PCCCH channel and by relaying uplink state flag
- 30 USF information to a radio path in each downlink radio block of the PDCH resource included by the logical PCCCH channel, and
- the USF information of the downlink radio block having a certain predetermined idle mode value, whereby the next uplink radio block in turn is
- 35 used as the PRACH channel.

5. A method as claimed in claim 3, **characterized** by indicating the resource part to be allocated to the PRACH channel by means of the PCCCH downlink resources,

relaying the uplink state flag USF information to the radio path in
5 each downlink radio block of the PDCH resource included by the logical PCCCH channel,

the USF information of the downlink radio block having another value than a certain predetermined idle mode value, and

the USF information having such a value that the subscriber terminal (104) is unable to use the channel as the PRACH channel.
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6. A method as claimed in claim 3, **characterized** by indicating the resource part to be allocated to the PRACH channel by means of the downlink resources of the PCCCH channel,

relaying the uplink state flag USF information to the radio path in
15 each downlink radio block of the PDCH resource included by the logical PCCCH channel,

the USF information of the downlink radio block having another value than a certain predetermined idle mode value, whereby the uplink packet traffic of the PDTCH and the PACCH channels of the subscriber terminal (104) allocated to the PDCH resource concerned is controlled by the USF information, and
20

the USF information having such a value that the subscriber terminal (104) is unable to use the channel as the PRACH channel.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by measuring continually the base station system's processor load or the signalling load between the base station (100) and the base station controller (114).
25

8. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by being utilized in the base station (100) and/or the base station controller (114).

9. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by primarily being employed in the base station (100) and/or the base station controller (114), to which a high PRACH capacity is configured.
30

10. A telecommunication system comprising a network part (100, 114, 116, 340), at least one subscriber terminal (104) and a telecommunication connection (108) between the network part (100, 114, 116, 340) and the subscriber terminal (104), in which telecommunication system
35

a base station system is arranged to use the telecommunication connection (108) for connection setup and data transfer,

the telecommunication connection (108) comprises a channel for relaying channel allocation requests transmitted by the subscriber terminal to the network part (100, 114, 116, 340),

characterized in that the telecommunication system is arranged to control load by adjusting the capacity of the channel used for relaying the channel allocation requests.

11. A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 10, **characterized** in that when the base station system becomes overloaded, the system is arranged to decrease PRACH channel capacity, and when the load drops to a desired level, the system is arranged to increase the PRACH channel capacity.

12. A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 10, **characterized** in that the system is arranged to configure a logical packet associated control channel PCCCH for the resource of a packet data channel PDCH comprised by the radio connection (108), which

PDCH resource comprised by the logical PCCCH channel is divided into uplink resource and downlink resource,

the uplink resources being divided between the PRACH channel, a packet data traffic channel PDTCH and a packet associated control channel PACCH, and which

uplink resource, which is not fixedly configured as the PRACH channel, is dynamically allocated to the PRACH, PDTCH and PACCH channels.

13. A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 12, **characterized** in that the system is arranged to indicate a resource part to be allocated to the PRACH channel by means of the downlink resources of the PCCCH channel,

to relay uplink state flag USF information to a radio path in each downlink radio block of the PDCH resource included by the logical PCCCH channel, and that

the USF information of the downlink radio block has a certain predetermined idle mode value, whereby the system is arranged to use the next uplink radio block in turn as the PRACH channel.

14. A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 12, **characterized** in that the system is arranged to indicate the resource part to be allocated to the PRACH channel by means of the downlink resources and relay the uplink state flag USF information to the radio path in each downlink radio block of the PDCH resources included by the logical PCCCH channel,

the USF information of the downlink radio block has another value than a certain predetermined idle mode value, and

the USF information has such a value that the subscriber terminal (104) is unable to use the channel as the PRACH channel.

15. A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 12, **characterized** in that the system is arranged to indicate the resource part to be allocated to the PRACH channel by means of the downlink resources of the PCCCH channel,

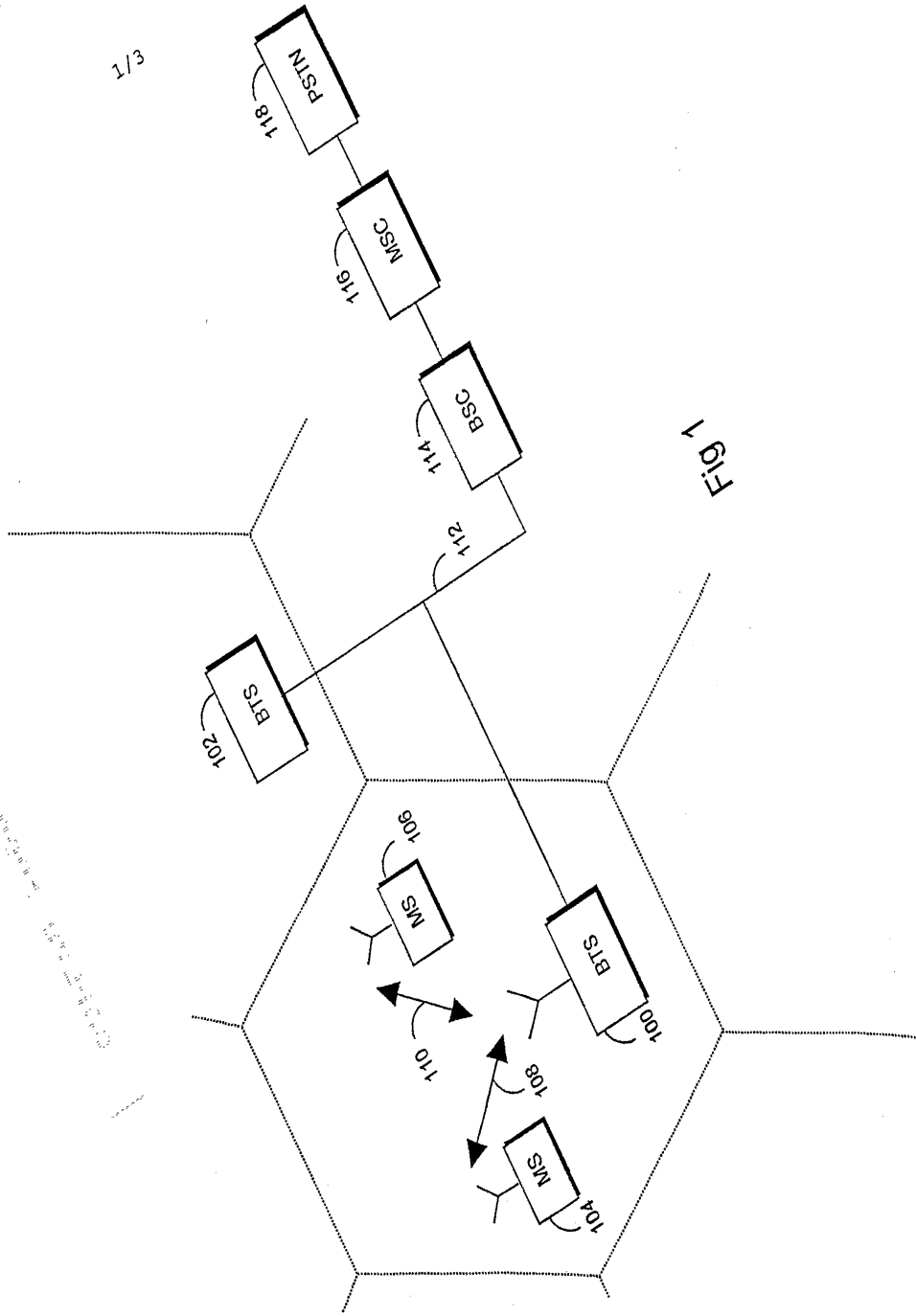
to relay the uplink state flag USF information to the radio path in each downlink radio block of the PDCH resource included by the logical PCCCH channel,

the downlink radio block USF information has another value than a certain predetermined idle mode value, whereby the system is arranged to control the uplink packet traffic of the PDTCH and the PACCH channels of the subscriber terminal (104) allocated to the PDCH resource concerned by the USF information, and

the USF information has such a value that the subscriber terminal (104) is unable to use the channel as the PRACH channel.

16. A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 10, **characterized** in that the system is arranged to measure continually the base station system's processor load or the signalling load between the base station (100) and the base station controller (114).

Fig 1



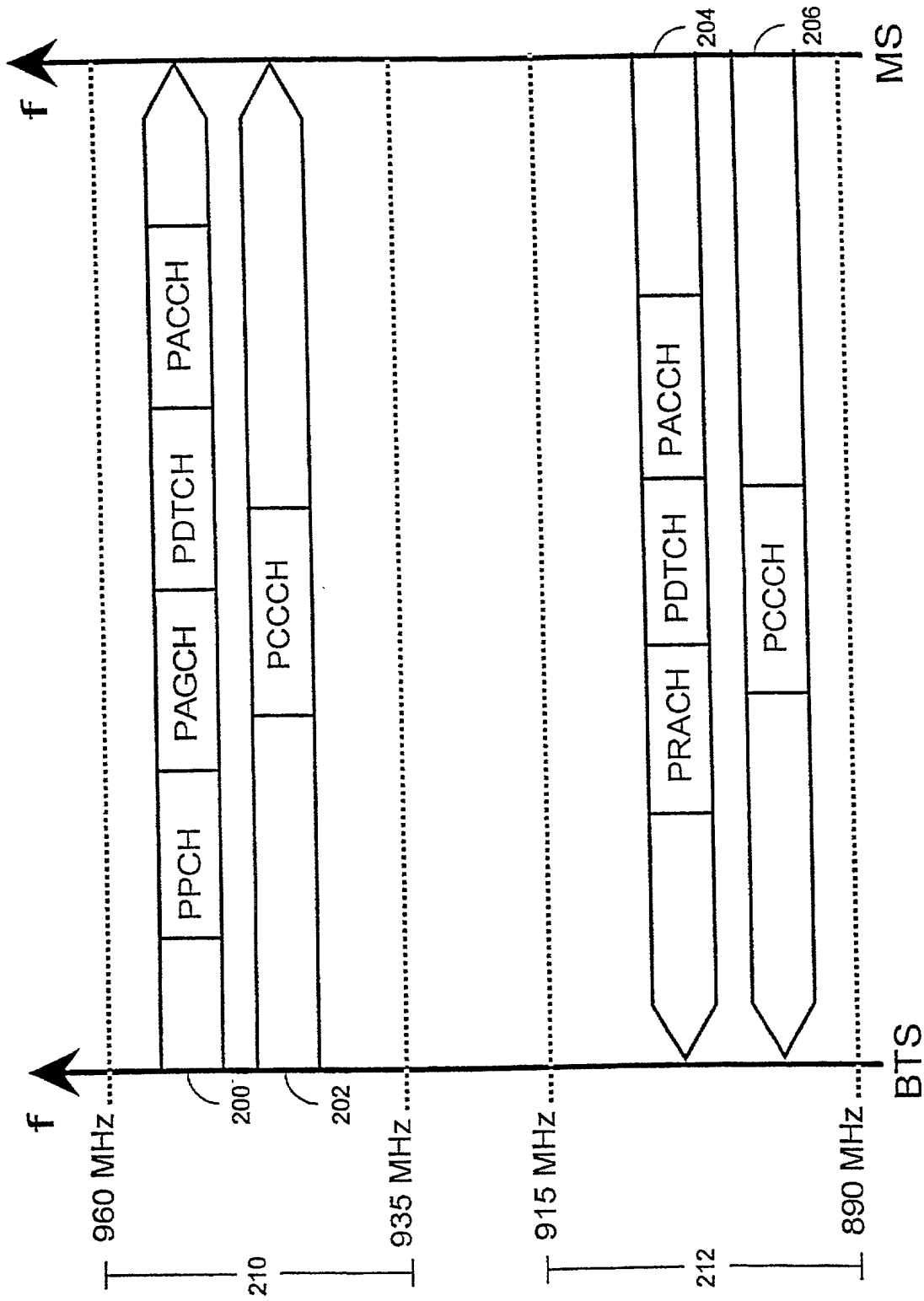


Fig 2

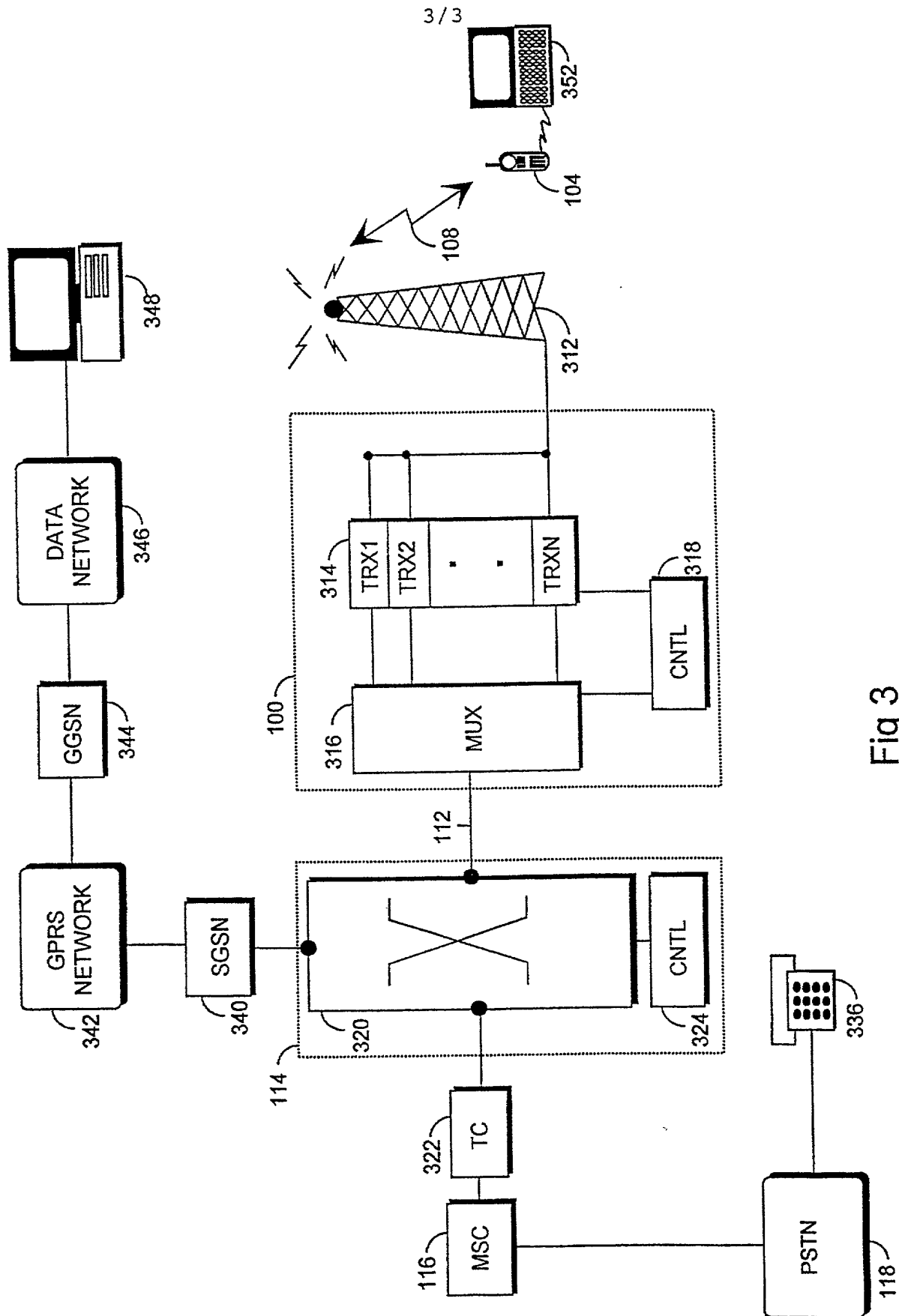


Fig 3

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FORM

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, and I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the **INVENTION ENTITLED**

Method for controlling load in a telecommunication system

the specification of which (CHECK applicable BOX(ES))

X → A. ☐ is attached hereto.

BOX(ES) → B. ☐ was filed on

→ C. ☒ was filed as PCT International Application No. PCT/ FI99 / 00707 on 31 August 1999

and (if applicable to U.S. or PCT application) was amended on

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International Application which designated at least one other country than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International Application, filed by me or my assignee disclosing the subject matter claimed in this application and having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which priority is claimed, or (2) if no priority claimed, before the filing date of this application:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S) Number	Country	Day/MONTH/Year Filed	Date first Laid- open or Published	Date Patented or Granted	Priority Claimed Yes No
981866	Finland	1 September 1998			X

I hereby claim domestic priority benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120 and 365(c) of the indicated United States applications listed below and PCT international applications listed above or below and, if this is a continuation-in-part (CIP) application, insofar as the subject matter disclosed and claimed in this application is in addition to that disclosed in such prior applications, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which became available between the filing date of each such prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL, NONPROVISIONAL AND/OR PCT APPLICATION(S) Application No. (series code/serial no.)	Day/MONTH/Year Filed	Status pending, abandoned, patented	Priority Claimed Yes No
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint Pillsbury Madison & Sutro LLP, Intellectual Property Group, 1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Ninth Floor, East Tower, Washington, D.C. 20005-3918, telephone number (202) 861-3000 (to whom all communications are to be directed), and the below-named persons (of the same address) individually and collectively my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and with the resulting patent, and I hereby authorize them to delete names/numbers below of persons no longer with their firm and to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/ organization who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct the above firm and/or a below attorney in writing to the contrary.

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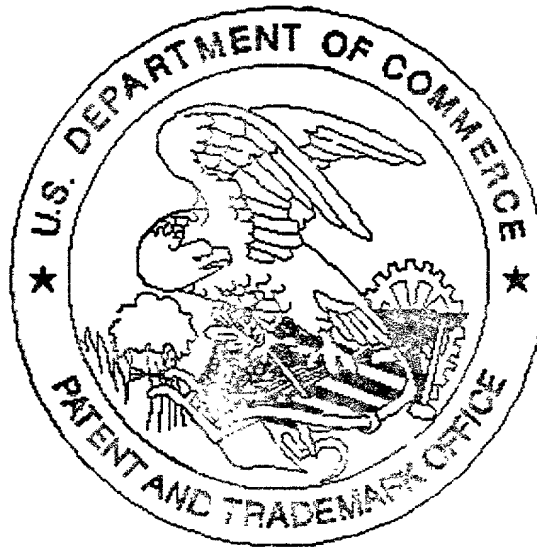
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